Ask the U.S. Embassy

February 12, 2014

Reapplying for a visa after deportation

Question: "Hi, I met this Christian man we fell in love and got married. He told me that he once lived in the USA, he got into some problems and was imprisoned for about two years and was deported in 1991. However he refused to tell me the reason he was imprisoned. He said that immigration told him when he was departing the USA that he can reapply in five years time. I travel to the US regularly and would want him to accompany me.

Is it possible for him to be granted a visa to re-enter the United States?"

More than 5 years have elapsed since your husband's deportation in 1991, so he would no longer be ineligible on those grounds, assuming that was his only problem with immigration in the U.S. However, this does not remove the reasons that led to his deportation in the first place.

Some visa ineligibilities are related to past criminal activity. The type and length of the ineligibility will depend on the type and severity of the crime. If your husband decides to reapply for a visa, he will need to bring to the interview all documents he has regarding any arrest. The consular officer will then be able to determine whether or not your husband qualifies for a visitor's visa. You can find more information about how to apply for a visitor's visa on our website: http://kingston.usembassy.gov/nonimmigrant_visas.html

Reminder for U.S. Citizens: All U.S. citizens who live outside of the United States and want to vote by absentee ballot must complete a new Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) every year if they wish to vote from abroad. For more information, please visit the www.fvap.gov. You may drop off your voting materials with postage affixed at the U.S. Embassy in Kingston or at the U.S. Consular Agencies in Montego Bay and the Cayman Islands for delivery to the United States.